AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of surveillance for the presence of a chemical, biological, or radiological agent, which method comprises:

   assaying a sample derived from materials collected from a sample domain for the presence of a chemical, biological, or radiological agent,

   wherein the sample domain is a route undertaken by a street sweeper machine and comprises at least one collection point from which the materials are collected in a pre-existing operation, otherwise unrelated to surveillance.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of surveillance of claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein the materials are collected in a predetermined, traceable route.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of surveillance of claim ~~2~~ 1, further comprising the steps of (a) introducing *Tetrahymena pyriformis* to the sample, and (b) assaying for *Bacillus anthracis* ~~wherein the sample is assayed for *Bacillus anthracis*, and *Tetrahymena pyriformis* is introduced to the sample.~~

5. (Original) The method of surveillance of claim 1, wherein the sample is assayed for *Bacillus anthracis* using real time polymerase chain reaction (RTm-PCR).

6. (Currently Amended) The method of surveillance of claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein the sample is derived from a street sweeper machine.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of surveillance of claim ~~2~~ 1, comprising obtaining a sample from a collection bin, and assaying the sample.

8. (Original) The method of surveillance of claim 7, comprising placing an assaying device in communication with the collection bin.

9. (Original) The method of surveillance of claim 7, wherein the sample is derived from rinsing collection bins that collect refuse from the street sweeper machine.

10. (Original) The method of surveillance of claim 1, wherein the sample is derived from collection bins washed with water.

11. (Original) The method of surveillance of claim 1, wherein the materials are collected in a predetermined pattern, and brought to a central location.

12. (Original) The method of surveillance of claim 1, wherein assaying for the presence of a chemical, biological, or radiological agent comprises comparing a level of chemical, biological or radiological agent to a normal level of a chemical, biological or radiological agent.

13. (Original) The method of surveillance of claim 12, wherein the normal level of a chemical, biological or radiological agent comprises background noise.

14. (Original) The method of surveillance of claim 12, wherein the normal level of a chemical, biological or radiological agent is ascertained from a second sample domain.

15. (Original) The method of surveillance of claim 1, wherein assaying for the presence of a chemical, biological, or radiological agent comprises detecting an increase in a level of chemical, biological or radiological agent relative to an earlier assay.

16. (Original) The method of surveillance of claim 1, wherein assaying for the presence of a chemical, biological, or radiological agent comprises detecting a decrease in a level of chemical, biological or radiological agent relative to an earlier assay.

17. (Original) The method of surveillance of claim 1, wherein assaying for the presence of a chemical, biological, or radiological agent comprises introducing *Tetrahymena pyriformis* to the sample.

18. (Original) The method of surveillance of claim 17, wherein the sample is assayed for *Bacillus anthracis.*

19. (Original) The method of surveillance of claim 17, wherein the sample is assayed for *Bacillus thuringiensis.*

20. (Original) The method of surveillance of claim 1, wherein the sample is assayed for *Bacillus thuringiensis.*

21. (Original) The method of surveillance of claim 20, wherein the *Bacillus thuringiensis* is UV-resistant.

22. (Original) The method of surveillance of claim 1, wherein collection integrity is preserved.

23. (Original) The method of surveillance of claim 1, comprising obtaining and assaying a sample from within a collection bin.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, comprising placing an assaying device in communication with the collection bin.

25. (Currently Amended) A method of surveillance for the presence of a chemical, biological, or radiological agent, which method comprises: isolating a sample, which sample comprises debris or fluids that result from rinsing collection bins used to collect ~~an instrumentality~~

~~used in a collection of~~ materials from a sample domain, and assaying the sample for the presence of a chemical, biological, or radiological agent.

26. (Currently Amended) A method of surveillance for the presence of a chemical, biological, or radiological agent, which method comprises:

(a) isolating a sample from a sample domain, which sample comprises debris or fluids that result from rinsing an instrumentality used in the collection of materials from the sample domain, and wherein the sample domain comprises a collection of materials on a regular, systematic basis through a predetermined, traceable route, the predetermined traceable rout converging on a centralized location;

(b) assaying the sample for the presence of a chemical, biological, or radiological agent using PCR technology, radiation detector technology, spectrometry technology, or radioimmunoassay technology;

(c) determining a result based on the assay; and

(d) reporting the result.

27. (Original) The method of surveillance of claim 26, wherein collection integrity is preserved.

28. (Withdrawn) A system for surveillance for chemical, biological, or radiological agents, which method comprises:

a sampling means for obtaining samples from collection points from which the materials are collected in a pre-existing operation, unrelated to surveillance; and

an assaying means, for determining the presence of a chemical, biological, or radiological agent in the sample from the sample domain.

29. (Currently Amended) A method for determining the presence of ~~a *Bacillus* spore~~ *Bacillus anthracis* within a sample comprising introducing *Tetrahymena pyriformis* to the sample, and assaying the sample for the presence of ~~a *Bacillus* spore~~ *Bacillus anthracis*.

30. (Canceled).

31. (Canceled).

32. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for determining the presence of a *Bacillus* spore~~ of claim 29, further comprising the step of introducing the sample to a membrane at a temperature effective to kill vegetative bacteria.

33. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for determining the presence of a *Bacillus* spore~~ of claim 32, wherein the temperature effective to kill the vegetative bacteria is about 70 °C to about 80 °C.

34. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for determining the presence of a *Bacillus* spore~~ of claim 29, wherein the sample is introduced to a first membrane having a pore size larger than the ~~a *Bacillus* spore~~ *Bacillus anthracis*, and a second membrane having a pore size smaller than the ~~a *Bacillus* spore~~ *Bacillus anthracis*.

35. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for determining the presence of a *Bacillus* spore~~ of claim 34, wherein the first membrane and/or the second membrane is at a temperature effective to kill vegetative bacteria.

36. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for determining the presence of a *Bacillus* spore~~ of claim 35, wherein the temperature effective to kill the vegetative bacteria is about 70 °C to about 80 °C.